

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 1
MAR. 2007
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The Marvel logo is written in its signature black script font across the top. Below it, a red VHS tape is shown at an angle, with its label and spine visible. The background is a bright yellow with a subtle pattern of radiating lines.



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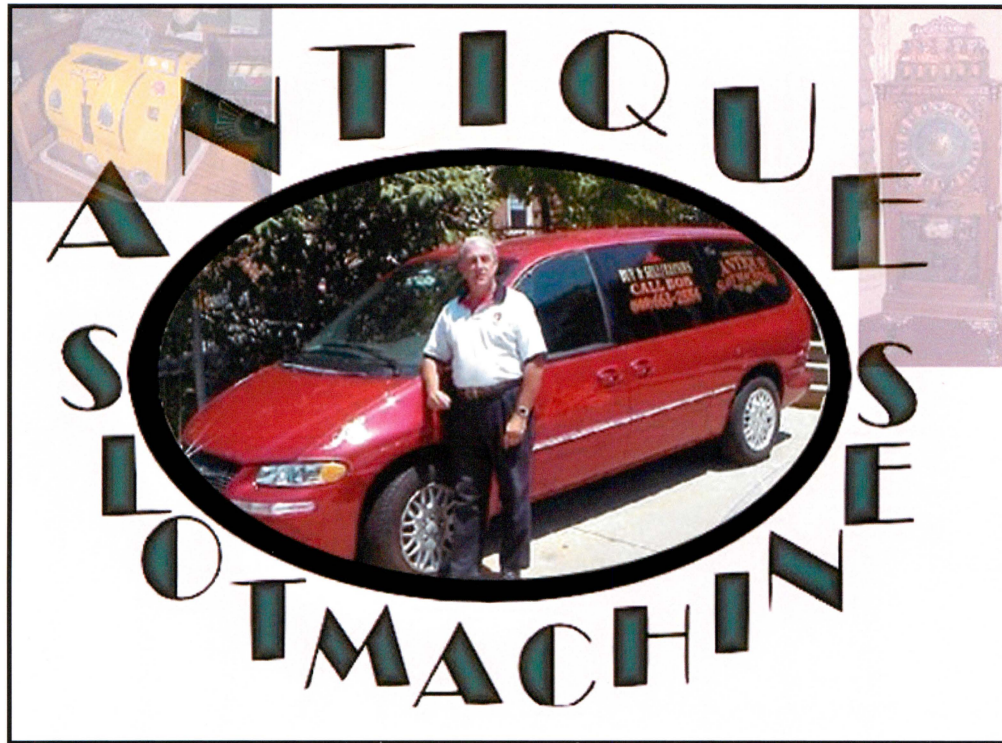
F. O. B. CHICAGO

ALPHA MARVEL is the smallest token payout counter game now made, it has the largest cast of characters ever built into a game of this kind. MARVEL is a combination of engineering feats which are startling in their remarkable perfection. Illustrated here are "high spots" in the creation of this great new Daval masterpiece which have long been desired by operators but have heretofore been unobtainable. MARVEL HAS EVERY MODERN REFINEMENT KNOWN IN TOKEN PAYOUT GAMES. PLUS A HOST OF GENIUNOUS NEW IMPROVEMENTS. MARVEL IS THE QUANTUM JUMP IN THE EVOLUTION OF COUNTER GAMES FOR countless years to come! MARVEL IS TRULY A MARVELOUS GAME! MARVEL is available in either 1c or 5c play with cigarette strips. (Beer strips available for 5c play only.)

MARVEL comes in two models, both available with token "payoff" or "visible token retainer". The regular model shown above does not vend ball gum. The model illustrated on the reverse side of this sheet contains the most radically advanced ball gum vender ever devised. MARVEL is built in a beautiful ultra-modern cabinet with a lacing smooth "hammerloid" baked-enamel finish—a wipe and it's clean!

NEARBY: membership list was sent in KLOCK type mine was located in the mine group, but it is also of the same kind and unmined type which has been used in this type of 40 years. Stable spin loss and last word came to it positive when stable ground 1.00 stop.

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Message from Our President...

Small change. It was the pennies and nickels that went into the arcade, scale, vending and slot machines many years ago that helped the families of storekeepers, bar owners and route operators. That same small change trickled up to the Mills, Caille, Watling, Jennings and other families to enrich their lives. Millions of people of all ages put their small change into the machines that we collect and treasure today.

Now the members of COCA are working together to enrich our lives one small change at a time. What started out as a few collectors meeting twice a year in Chicago has grown to a membership of more than 550. Together we publish the best and only magazine dedicated to all types of coin-op. Our meetings have become the place to be with great speakers and a chance to meet old and new friends. We are headed to Phoenix for our fourth annual convention on July 27. Our website is growing with new features. We have initiated a program of member discounts available only to COCA members from fellow COCA members/vendors.

Our latest successful small change was the initiation of local meetings. These regional gatherings provide an opportunity to get to know fellow COCA members on a new level. In contrast to our time together in Chicago or at the annual convention where we are rushing to take in as much as we can, the local meetings are a relaxing time for socializing, telling stories, and learning about each other, our machines, and our field of expertise. They also offer the chance for spouses to meet and share their interests. There are several local meetings planned for 2007. If you don't see one on the list near you, why not host one yourself in your area. All coin-op collectors will benefit by attending a local COCA gathering.

Our next Chicago meeting will be at the home of Jasper Sanfilippo on Friday, March 30. Only COCA members may go and must go via the COCA bus. Check out the website (www.coinopclub.org) for more details. If you have any ideas, questions, complaints or suggestions for our club, please call me directly at 919-304-4455, or e-mail me at Bill@mebtel.net. Your membership in COCA is appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Bill Petrochuk
COCA President

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
MAY 10, 2007**



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DAVAL MARVEL AND AMERICAN EAGLE

Cover Story..... by Bill Petrochuk

What was the most popular trade stimulator of all time? Ask a group of coin-op collectors and the most likely answer is The Marvel. When visiting the home of a fellow collector what machine will most likely be seen? Right again! The Marvel. What coin-op machine was among the first acquired by most collectors? Well, you get the idea. Most of us currently have or have had one and some have built whole collections around these marvelous wonders.

What made the Marvel and its twin brother the American Eagle so popular? First, they enjoyed an extremely long production run. The Marvel appeared in early 1940. Production ceased during the war years of 1942 through 1945, but came back strong and lasted until 1952. That is at least nine years of production; most other trade stimulators only enjoyed one to five-year production runs. Noted counter game collector and historian Bill Whelan began collecting serial numbers of trade machines before most collectors knew what a trade stimulator was. He estimates that Daval made about 70,000 machines. More than 60,000 of them were post humpback production. One could conclude that between 25,000 and 40,000 Marvels and Eagles were produced. Al Douglas and Dave Klein had been in business in Chicago for about 15 years as the A.S. Douglas Co. and as Douglas Machine before they combined letters in their first names and became Daval in the early 1930's. Scott Industries bought the line in 1948, and then sold out to Comet Industries in 1949, who continued production until 1952.

When Marvel and American Eagle were first introduced in 1940 they left the humpback style of the Reel 21 and Reel Dice in the dust. The new streamlined look featured hammerloid baked-on enamel paint and phenol-plastic, slam-proof yellow or red front pull handles. The biggest improvement over the trade stimulators of the past was the clock type gear driven governor. This was the same type of timing device that Mills, Jennings and Watling had been using for years in their full-sized slot machines. The replacement of the troublesome pump type governor was welcomed by operators everywhere. Groetchen, Daval's major competitor, also switched to clock governors in their stimulators. Other improvements of their previous games included a coin

agitator to keep the coins spread out in the cash box, a clog and jam-proof coin chute, and a mechanism that slid in and out of the cabinet with ease.

Groetchen had re-popularized the token payout of the early cast iron stimulators with their Ginger of 1937. Daval copied the token payout slide and tube in both the Marvel and Eagle. Marvel tokens were good for one to ten packs of cigarettes, while Eagle tokens were good for five to 100 free plays. The tokens could either be dispensed to the winner or retained behind a window in the visibility version. Machines were created in the plain gambling model for \$32.50, or as gumball vendors for \$34.50, F.O.B. Chicago. By June of 1943, over-production had lowered the prices to \$15.75 each, or \$11.95 each in lots of ten. When the war ended the price rose to \$54.00 for the plain version and \$59.00 for the gumball model.

Marvel was first advertised in 1¢ and 5¢ play with cigarette symbols, and as 5¢ play only with beer strips. The beer symbols must not have been well received as production either quickly ceased or never began. The American Eagle had the standard slot machine fruit reels and also came with stars, hearts, diamonds, clovers and rings. Machines with numbers symbols are occasionally found and were also made for export as well. All machines had three reels with 20 symbols and 10 stops. When three like symbols were lined up the payout fingers probed the reel disks to activate the token slide. There certainly is much full-sized slot machine engineering in these smaller games.

In 1941 Daval introduced the American Eagle Defense. This machine had tank, bomb, machine gun, artillery gun, and paratrooper symbols. These are quite rare as aluminum became a critical material for war use and the run was short. Other models included the Gusher of 1946, which had a hand-load key operated jackpot on the front, the Gold Award model, first introduced in 1941, and the Comet, which was merely a Marvel renamed by Comet Industries when they took over the company in 1949. A non-coin operated model introduced in 1941 featured a counter on the side to tell the operator how many plays a patron had made. Metal award card plates can be found in different sizes and in either etched chrome or brass finish and with differing

color schemes. A collection that featured all models, with and without gum vendors, 1¢, 5¢, and non-coin would be quite extensive.

The current average price for a complete working Marvel in good condition is \$250 to \$300. The gumball version is normally priced about \$50 higher. This appears to be a great value considering this is a crossover piece that appeals to both coin-op and tobacciana collectors. Eagles go for about the same as Marvels. Non-coin operated models usually do around \$150 to \$200. A nice Gusher would be valued at \$350 to \$500, while the Defense could command \$500 or more. Finding a machine with tokens inside is a bonus. If your machine needs tokens they are usually available on the internet

for \$1 to \$2 each. Buyers should always examine the reel bundles for broken kick-off tabs. This is a common failure caused by metal fatigue. Unfortunately, there are no reproduction reels available. The recommendation is to keep looking until a fully operational machine can be located, which should not be difficult given the glut of machines available. Reproduction reel strips are available from COCA member Bill Whelan of Daly City, CA. When restoring a machine I like to try to stay true to the original factory colors. Others prefer to shake things up a bit. No matter what color you paint it you may be changing history, but you probably won't be changing the value.

Photos are courtesy of the collections of:

Al Demetruk,
Dennis Green,
Jim Slifko,
Bill Whelan, and
Bill Petrochuk





A.B.T. FOOTBALL

by Bill Howard

This wonderful and rare counter sports game is a cultural coin-operated machine that may well ask as many questions as it answers. It is "cultural" in the sense that it bears the English reference to soccer as "football." The Chester Pollard "football" games came from Great Britain and sprung up in the 1920's long after the U.S. had developed the cultured football rivalries between such schools as Harvard vs. Yale and Ohio State vs. Michigan. Yet this machine appears to be American because of its advertisement in the February, 1932, issue *Automatic Age* by A.B.T. Manufacturing of Chicago. It serves as a mystery because A.B.T. either licensed it or manufactured it.

Obviously this is soccer that operates much like the multi-player Pollard games. The rest is not so obvious. The ad features a type of A.B.T. coin entry slide not favored or seen in the European market. Yet the three examples I know to exist in this county all employ a coin entry different from the ad and common in Europe that accommodates an engaging wheel on the right hand side that must be turned to put the machine in play. And all three work on English penny or "half-pense" with a typical adjustment in the internal coin channel to accommodate either denomination. But the two guns have all the characteristics of A.B.T. guns. The coin entry difference between the ad and the examples I have seen reminds me of the difference between a Chester Pollard football revamp that kept the original heavy coin entry and the less desirable Mike Munves revamp that substituted the A.B.T. style coin entry never seen in Europe. Also, the A.B.T. ad in *Automatic Age* features this machine along with two other very American A.B.T. counter machines.

So did A.B.T. manufacture this machine and offer it to the foreign market, where folks in England then

revamped the coin entry, or did A.B.T. merely get a license to offer this foreign machine to the American market and then convert its own coin entry as seen in the ad? My guess is that A.B.T. did the latter because of the handle feature to the right of the machine. Typically,

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American design would not have utilized both the coin entry and the turning of the wheel to engage the play, as is common to many English machines. In any event, it is clear that it was made available to the American market by A.B.T. Manufacturing.

This example retains its outward original appearance save for refinish on the guns, a new cash drawer and replaced felt. The dome is very heavy and sports the typical chips and waves of old glass. The player's retain their original paint, as is the case with the wood finish, metal trimming and English emblems on the side. Its internal mechanics were restored thanks to the Rubber City Wizard, Ross Misner.

The machine works atop curved sheet metal covered felt that will guide the ball when engaged to specific

spots in front of each kicker to be blasted at the opposite goal. The goals are very realistic and employ a clover trap mechanism to stop the ball from bouncing out once a goal has been scored. The position and kick of the kicker are both controlled by the arm and trigger of the gun. What I like about this machine in addition to its wonderful appearance is that it is truly a fun game to play in addition to being well built and heavy. I have been looking for this game for over fifteen years.

I was able to acquire it thanks to good friend Tom Gustwiller, who owns a second fine example. A third, non working example is the only other one I know of in this country. Pictures of my example and the ad I referred to are shown.

C.O.C.A. MEMBER DISCOUNTS

C.O.C.A. has started another new initiative.

Members are giving other C.O.C.A. members discounts.

As of December, the following discounts are being offered.

Check the C.O.C.A. website for a more up-to-date list of discounts.

- Marshall Fey, as a charter member of C.O.C.A., and publisher of several slot machine books is giving all C.O.C.A. members FREE SHIPPING on any book he publishes. He also will give 40% off if you buy three of the same book. Go to the Liberty Belle Books WEB SITE (<http://www.libertybelleslotmachinebooks.com/>) and indicate you are a C.O.C.A. member when you order.
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- C.O.C.A. member Dave Burritt, is offering C.O.C.A. members a substantial discount on his newly released On-Line Antique Slot Machine Price Guide. The price guide is comprised of thousands of antique slot machine sales that sold on Ebay, the Victorian Casino Antiques auction, the James Julia auction, and the Randy Inman auction. C.O.C.A. members get a \$25 discount (Coupon Code LKJM) from the 14 day subscription option that normally sells for \$39.95 and a \$100 discount (Coupon Code MJSW) from the 12 month subscription option that normally sells for \$139.95. This discount is valid until 10 days after you receive this issue of the magazine. To subscribe, go to the Antique Slot Machine Price Guide WEB SITE (<http://www.antiqueslotmachinepriceguide.com/>) and insert the Coupon Code on the order form to get your C.O.C.A. discount.
- C.O.C.A. member, Ken Durham is giving all C.O.C.A. members a 20% discount on the Personalized Gameroom Art Print/Posters that he is offering. Just indicate you are a C.O.C.A. member on the order form. To see the art print/posters that you can personalize with your name and message, click on the following web page: <http://www.GameRoomAntiques.com/ArtPrint.htm>.

Other C.O.C.A. dealers who want to give C.O.C.A. members a discount, please SEND AN EMAIL to Ken Durham, (durham22@bellatlantic.net).

Let me start, Dear Reader, by wishing each of you a very prosperous and exciting 2007. Victory goes to the vigilant so read all you can about your favorite machines, talk with other knowledgeable collectors and beat the bushes! It is surprising what turns up on an occasional basis. The critical question is: Are you the one looking when it does and do you know what you're looking at? If you are, Bravo! How about sending an article into "COCA Times" so that the rest of us can share your success with you?

Today's article is not the one suggested at the end of my last article. At that time, I was teasing you about a machine that I recently acquired that showcased an "interesting marriage between sight and sound." At last report, the marriage is on hold and the bride is consulting a divorce attorney. If you get in over your head during restoration as I routinely do, you understand. For those out there who are the mechanical geniuses I admire, I expect no sympathy. You may be getting a call from me one day, sooner rather than later. In the meantime, let's take a look at a game that features the best of all that I admire in coin-op, specifically: uniqueness, craziness, despair, redemption and benediction.

The mechanical star today is a game called "Town Broker." It was manufactured by a company named Premier Automatic Machine Company of Sheffield, London in 1929. When I purchased the Glenn Collection in 2002, one of the games that really caught my eye was this machine (Photo A.) As you can see from the photo, a major eye-attracting feature was how UGLY this game truly was. Upon closer inspection, I determined that it was not really the Town Broker's fault. Somewhere

along the line, in an effort to increase the appeal and extend the service life of the machine, some chuckle-head thought to himself: "What can I do to spiff up the Broker and make more money for me and the Missus?"

Town Broker Down Under

by **John Peterson**

the formica had to go. In addition, since the plastic was glued to the wood, I had to sand the case down to bare wood and refinish the complete case. The finished example is displayed in (Photo B.) Please let me make perfectly clear, I am not a restorer. For one thing, I think of myself as more of a "preservationist." Like a trustee in the classic sense, I am charged with the responsibility of preserving these old games for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Part of that enjoyment process is to see how the games actually looked after years of use. These are commercial machines intended for the masses. During their service, they performed whenever called upon without reserve or complaint. I know that there are collectors who prefer their games to look showroom new. I prefer mine to look like they snuck out the back of the brothel one step ahead of the cops. As a friend once remarked, "it should look like it worked for a living."

The Town Broker is a rather clever game. It is essentially a single wheel roulette game with the added feature that you have the ability to stop the wheel

I know; I'll cover that ugly wood with the latest space age material: FORMICA!" And so, the brain surgeon and his assistant carefully cut out pieces of faux-wood formica to cover up the very attractive real oak. I leave it to you to decide the success of their strategy but for me,



Photo A



Photo B

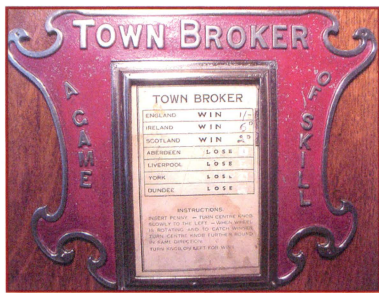


Photo C

I have not had this confirmed, I think the game is based upon the premise that you're betting on a soccer game. The pay-out card (Photo C) is explicit in spelling out the teams that are winners. These teams and many others appear on

the wheel in the cut-out at the top of the game (Photo D.) Play is very simple. You deposit a large British penny in the coin-slot and then turn the silver knob in the center of the door. The wheel begins to rotate very rapidly sending the names tumbling by in a blur. At any time during the rotation, the player can stop the wheel by turning the center knob an additional distance. If a winning team is under the top marker, you've won the number of coins on the card. After playing the game a time or two, you realize that your chances of winning are dramatically increased by waiting until the wheel slows almost to a stop and you can identify a winner in the field of losers. There is some help here as the winners are lettered in black and all losers are red. Even given my considerable experience and unlimited access to coins, I still have trouble beating this game. As with all successful games, the Town Broker is really the Town Piker.

After disassembling the game, cleaning all the parts and refinishing the case, I was still dissatisfied with my machine. The source of my dissatisfaction related to the coin drop mechanism. I was missing the part that prevented the wheel from turning prior to deposit of a coin. In effect, my game was on continuous "free play." And that bugged me, big time. So, I did what has worked for me in the past; I threw back my head and shouted "HELP!" as loudly as I could on the electronic bulletin board. My picture posting and plea went on the premier site for British games, www.pennymachines.co.uk. There it sat, and it sat and it sat. I derived some consolation from the conclusion that my game

whenever you wish. That sounds like a "cannot lose" proposition, doesn't it? Of course it does and that is part of the attraction and appeal of this and any other good game. Although

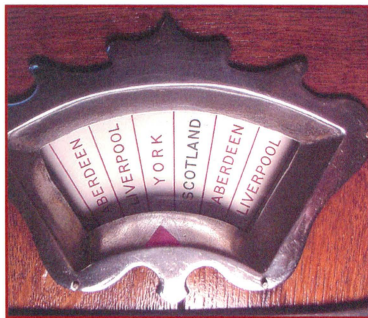


Photo D

must be fairly rare if no one else seemed to have one, but the fact remained: I have no idea what the missing part looked like or how to fashion a replacement that correctly operated the game.

I was beginning to think maybe I should re-glue the plastic back and forget the whole thing when I received a telephone call from Australia. I am not making this up, the call was from the land of kangaroos, wallabies and where the water in the toilet bowl swirls the wrong direction. To say the least, I was flabbergasted. When he identified himself, my amazement was complete. It was Bob Klepner, the top collector of British coin-op pieces certainly in Australia and maybe in most other nations. Bob's tale was quite intriguing. Born originally in Austria, Bob's parents immigrated to Australia when Bob was a small child. In middle life, Bob had an epiphany (like most of us do) and decided that he might like to collect a few of those old coin operated machines from his youth. The perplexing question as always, where to start? He heard a rumor that there might be a machine or two discarded under an abandoned local ice skating rink. Armed with no more than a flashlight and unsupported hope, Bob opened the door to the smelly and dank space under the rink and went in search of treasure amongst the rats and trash. What he found was the door and attached mechanism of a Town Broker. In addition to the case, Bob was missing the red surround with the name and the chrome display window that showcased the roulette wheel. Despite the lack of an example from which to work, Bob made a case.

From such humble beginnings, Bob went on to amass a very impressive collection of early British and American coin-op, including the British holy grail, "The Yacht Racer" by Ernest G. Matthewson of Automatic Sports Company. A man after my own heart, Bob liked to fashion his own replacement parts. He did this year after year on his kitchen table, clearing everything off at the end of the evening prior to the next day's meals. Hearing his story made my tiny furnace room workshop sound rather grand. I resolved then and there to tell Dearly Beloved that I adore my cramped space and the CO poisoning from the gas furnace. For some odd reason, after working down there for an hour or two, I can never remember to carry through.

Bob was calling to see if I would be willing to have castings made of his missing pieces from my game so that he could finally complete the first game in his collection. Knowing Bob and his impeccable reputation through prior conversations with other collectors

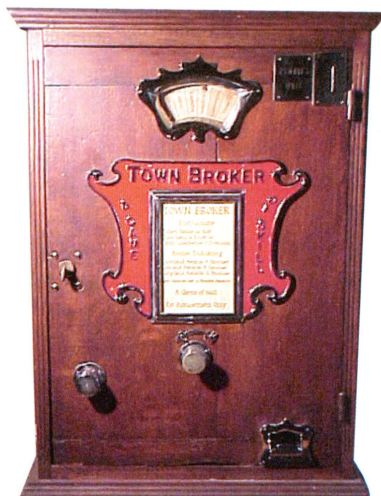


Photo E

in both Australia and England, I did not hesitate to remove my castings and send them to him so that he could have the replacements made to his standards. Several months later, he returned them. You can see the results of Bob's efforts in (Photo E.) His case is different, to be sure. Given that he was working

missing parts free of charge. My Broker now works like a charm, stealing penny after penny from all who would challenge her.

The essence of this tale is just like all the others that I tell. You are a part of a movement much larger than yourself. Lend a helping hand to those below you and don't be afraid to ask for help from those above. What you do in your collecting hobby is a noble effort to preserve a fascinating scintilla of humanity from a period in time that will never be repeated again. Your efforts, however modest, will not be in vain. You are a hero in my book. Just like Bob Klepner.

THE END

POSTSCRIPT: Want to go for broke on this story? Well, don't write me at jp4@charter.net or call 952 891-2312. Get off your duff and pen your own story for all to enjoy here at COCA!

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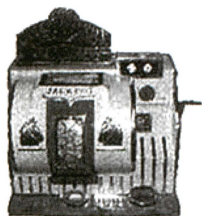
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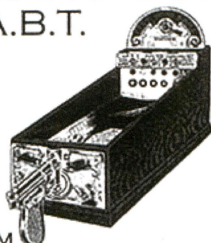
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This page is shared by William Daugharty.

It is a display of the various means to cheat the players as well as the owners of slot machines.

Friends at the Guardhouse

by Bill Howard



Recently I had a conversation with Paul Hindin about what really motivates us to attend the COCA Conventions and Chicagoland pilgrimages each year. We concluded that it was as much a question of getting together with friends and fellow “nuts” that were bonded by a

machine is as great as the joy in owning it. I first became aware of its existence through conversations with friend Chad Boekelheide. We both thought the machine had eluded us after being involved in a large coin-op acquisition. About a year later I had dinner with Godfather, Mike Gorski at his home in Westlake, Ohio, and was about to pull out of his drive on my way home when I noticed that his garage door was open. I looked inside and, to my amazement, saw this machine sitting innocently on top of a blanket in front of God and everyone. I pointed to it and asked Mike “what is going on?” He told me he had just returned from Jim Grimwade’s auction and had been asked by Jim to transport it from the auction until Jim had a chance to come and get it. After confirming with the Godfather that he had no interest, I immediately called Jim and asked if I could take it home for a look, and, out of friendship, he agreed.

When I got the machine home, I couldn’t believe it; the machine looked marvelous except for the wood damage to the right front corner of the base and the fact that the mechanism of this 115+ year old machine needed cleaning and was jammed.

Then my friend and restorer, Ross Misner of Akron, Ohio took over and discovered that the jam was due to a worn rivet and the fact one of God’s children had tried to operate the machine with a nickel that had jammed. When he took the machine apart, he assured me that it was obvious that no prior repair work had been done and that the paint and finish was all original.

So it appeared that this machine had been passed on by many when all it needed was a hug and a little care. It now sits on my living room table and works as designed thanks to the generosity and accommodations of Jim. Looking at it reminds me of Joe Cocker singing, “With a Little Help from My Friends.”

Four screw hinges hold the front of the guardhouse in place. When it is removed, certain sized cigars or bubblegum cigars (as the ad offered) were loaded up top in the original tin container that has the symbol of the British Lion stamped on it. The front refers to “tom”, the period reference to the British soldiers, the “Tommies”.

As Paul and I discussed, memories of friends and interaction can be as important sometimes as what we actually acquire for a collection.

common interest and passion as it was hunting for the great machine that has so far eluded our collection efforts. That conversation comes to mind in this story of how I acquired this POM CIGARRE AUTOMATAT that I call the Guardhouse Cigar Vender.

I believe this machine to be extremely rare and the exact machine featured in Bill Enes’ Silent Salesman Too on page 223. It was manufactured by Ernst Holzeissg and advertised in its reproduction catalogue in 1898 on page 79. This catalogue has a world of information regarding early coin operated or clockwork European Machines.

The catalogue ad from Leipzig Germany offered this cigar vending machine to the French, English, and German market with corresponding “colors” and coinage in two varieties - with and without a match dispenser on the lower right hand corner of the machine. The operation is marvelous. After placing a coin in the machine, the plunger at the bottom of the base causes the black sentry to pivot to his right and receive a cigar falling from above into his hands and pivot back in front of the purchaser with the cigar as if a sentry was “presenting arms” while on guard duty.

The example I acquired is the only one I had ever seen, and I have been actively looking for one for over fifteen years. It is English, takes an English penny, is without the matchbox variation, and is in perfect original condition except for a rivet and some slight wood repair to the front right corner of the base.

As is true of many finds, my joy in acquiring this



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Tales of the Hunt

Hosted by Jack Freund

This "TALE" comes from Johnny Duckworth and it's a beauty! Keep in mind that this find was just last summer and the machine is one that few, if any of us, have ever seen or even heard of. Here is Johnny's e-mail as sent to me. This is.....

THE HUNT FOR THE YALE WONDER CLOCK

Jack, I see in the last issue of C.O.C.A. you are looking for some good "tales of the hunt" stories. Well this is a machine I picked up this summer and I am glad to say I can share this story with everyone. It could have easily turned out to be something very embarrassing that I wouldn't want to share with anyone.

I received a phone call one Thursday from a friend who knows I chase the old floor machines with a passion and he asked if I would be interested in something called a Yale Wonder Clock. The machine is similar to the early floor machine with a large wooden cabinet but that is about all they have in common. I could remember seeing one pictured in Bueschel's trade stimulator book and that was all I had to go off of. I told him I was really interested and would like to see if I could add it to my collection so he passed along the information. I called the guy who was selling the machine that night and talked to him for a long time. The machine was buried in his garage and he hadn't even come up with a price let alone taken any pictures. I explained I was very interested in the machine and would like to get a good photo of it. He said he would dig it out and take a few photos on the weekend.

In the middle of chasing this big lead we had promised to attend an annual float trip that weekend which my brother hosts for all his friends. The next morning we headed out for Missouri to float down the Niangua, as promised. We floated all day Saturday in the sun with the Yale Wonder Clock on my mind. When we returned back to the cabin that night I knew I was in the wrong direction of this machine so as you can imag-



ine we headed for home Saturday night. I made connections with the seller on the drive home to nudge him along. My wife and I made it home Sunday at 12:30 in the morning and at 1:00 in the morning I had cemented the deal on the phone as I agreed to his price but still hadn't seen what I was buying.

He called me at 6:30 in the morning to see if I had received the email with all the pictures. I checked the computer and sure enough it was an original Yale Wonder Clock. We were out the door by 7:30am and on the road to Colorado to reel in this big machine. I had only seen one model of this machine in a book as I have mentioned, so I knew very little about it. The pictures he sent showed the music portion in the lower part of the cabinet covered with a round wooden board. You can only imagine that the music was discarded long ago and covered up with this to hide any trace that it ever existed. The early floor machines are notorious for this and when

the music became out of whack the operator would pull them out of the machine. The window in the center of the machine was empty with some sort of metal cage inside. I thought maybe this was where a clock movement went as the name is Yale Wonder Clock. It all happened so fast that there just wasn't a lot of time for research and it was just a gut feeling I had to go on.

This could have been the embarrassing part or the end of the story if I wouldn't have reeled this fish into the boat. I was in such a hurry and on a mission to get this machine I had managed to only get a cell number, first name, and a town in which the machine was located. Not bad if it is a few towns over but this was over 700 miles away. I drove across Kansas with a sinking feeling that I was making a huge mistake by rushing out

the door and not getting more information. This was only followed by repeated phone calls made all the way across Kansas with no answer. I have to say my passion jumped about 10 steps ahead of my brain. Well my fears were calmed when we made it into Colorado, he called me and what a relief. He had stayed up late to get the pictures out for me and had been sleeping all day.

Keep in mind when you are on a long drive all you can think about is what will this look like in person, what is it missing, and can I find some old parts to fix it? You think of this over and over in your head and with different scenarios. My only two fears with the machine were what is behind the wood board and what went in the empty window. While driving and talking to him on the phone I asked him about the empty window in the top glass where maybe a clock or something had gone. Good thing I was sitting down as he told me the window was for advertising cards which slide back and forth as there is a full box of them in the bottom of the machine. I couldn't wait to see what I was hearing so I gripped the wheel a little tighter and put the pedal thru the floor. The only other problem to recon with now, was the music and if it was there or not. He had found 4 musical discs with the machine so I couldn't figure out why there would still be discs if the music player was long gone.

We had decided it would be much easier to meet him in town and then follow him home with all the road construction going on. We met up with him and followed him out to see our prized machine which he had already moved outside for us to load. I just about jumped thru the car window as we drove up to the machine and I could see the wood which was covering the music area was not mounted directly to the machine. Come to find out there are 4 original nickel studs which stand off the machine to hold the glass covering the music and this wood was put in place of the glass. I am sure at some-time in its life the glass was broken and they decided it was much easier and cheaper to replace it with a piece of wood. I have to say it is not normal for all my problems to be solved so fast but this was looking like it

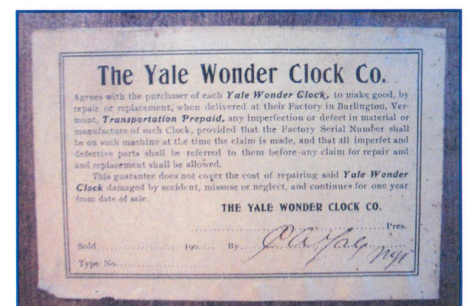
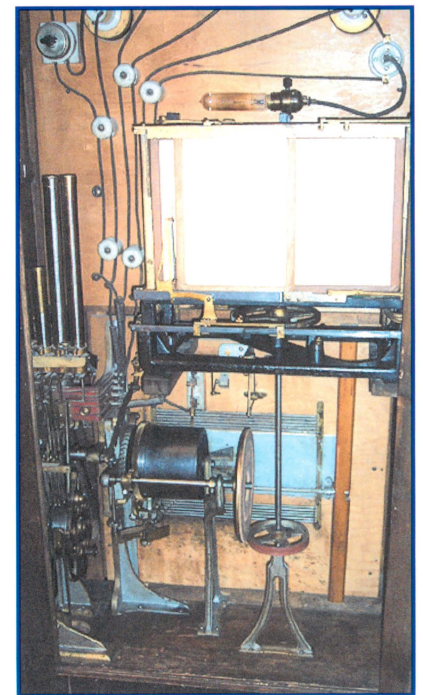
was too good to be true. I got out of the car and the first thing I had to do was to look behind the wood and see what was hiding back there. I looked behind the round piece of wood and the musical disc player with twelve bells was staring me right in the face. You know that feeling you don't get to feel very often but when you do it's a rush of excitement, I felt it! We loaded this big machine up which stands just over 7 feet tall and headed for home. I was so excited we ended up driving it straight thru and made it back home by 2:00 am Monday morning.

These are amazing machines for when you put your nickel in and pull the handle you will get a token back in trade, the advertising cards slide across in the window, the music with twelve bells plays music, one of the four lights will light up to indicate the payoff, and it even has three reels with numbers under the glass which spin in order to bet on. It is interesting how this huge machine gets its name the Yale Wonder Clock from a little 3" clock on the front of the machine. I am currently researching and working on an article on the Yale Wonder Clock for a future article in the C.O.C.A. TIMES so if you have any information on this machine you would like to share, let me know at jtduck@msn.com or 816-835-3316.

HAPPY HUNTING!

Now we want to hear your tale. Send it to Jack Freund, PO Box 4, Springfield WI 53176 or e-mail it to jbgum@msn.com

*Meanwhile,
Pray for more STUFF!*

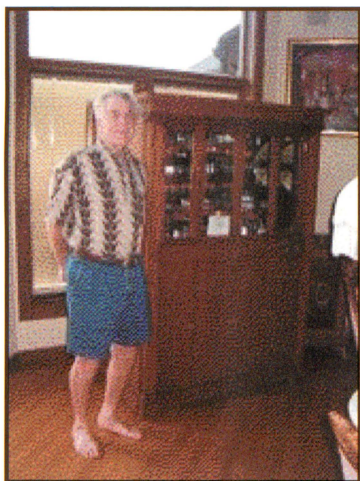


C.O.C.A. is Starting a New Initiative - Profiles of C.O.C.A. Members

We ask a C.O.C.A. member a variety of questions and share with you their answers.
We'll include one profile in each issue of the C.O.C.A. Times and
other profiles will be posted on the C.O.C.A. web site.

It is appropriate that our first profile be of C.O.C.A.'s first member,
the person who started our club, Frank DeMayo

If you would like to share with us your profile, please see the contact information below.



**Frank
DeMayo**

When did you first start to collect?

Early 1970's

What was your first purchase?

Mills 1937 Brown front for \$50 and I thought that was too much!!!

Did another collector influence you?

Mike Gorski, Tom Gustwiller and Frank Zygmunt.

What kind of machines do you collect?

Turn of the century music, gambling, some arcade and French automata 1850-1900.

How did you get interested in Coin-Op?

I collect them because I am fascinated with the mechanics and how they work and I love to listen to the music machines.

Are you partial to any particular manufacturer?

No.

What specific machines do you like best?

My Double Violino and Seeburg H because the music is great.

How many machines do you have?

I have about 75 Coin-Op and 30 Automata.

Do you collect things other than coin-op?

I collect anything neat, advertising, etc. I like it all! As long as it is old!

What machines are you especially looking for now?

I'm looking for mostly automata and music.

What was your best find?

My best find was an Eagle Square Deal Gum Vendor Slot Machine. I paid \$500 and sold it for \$20,000.

What was your worst purchase or experience?

My worst experience was I got to an estate auction late and they were auctioning a console music machine. I was in the back of the room and I thought it had to be worth much more than the couple hundred being offered so I bought it – only to find out the music coming from the machine was from a tape recorder – there was nothing inside the machine. I took it home and the next day I burnt it!

Are your machines mostly for show or play?

Mostly for show.

Are your machines displayed throughout the house or in a special area?

They are displayed in our home.

Does your spouse like coin-op?

Gloria likes the collection and likes to decorate around the collection.

Do you prefer machines in all-original condition or fully restored?

Original is best ...I own some recreations (like that word?)

Do you refurbish/fix your own machines?

I repair what I can...There are good people out there and I usually consult with other members of COCA to get suggestions and names.

Where do you purchase most of the items you buy?

I purchase most of my items at auctions and from other collectors. I don't avoid anything to make a find...You never know what or where you will find an item!

How did you become knowledgeable?

I have learned what I know from books (I like any and all books) and have got advice from other collectors, but there is a lot of trial and error involved also. I would advise new collectors to visit as many collectors as they can and do a lot of research and reading.

Do you sell machines?

I sell to buy other machines or upgrade and trade is always an option. I do advertise. My good experiences far outweigh the bad ones! If you go to auction, you need to do your homework.

What advice do you have for auction goers?

Just remember most items at auction need attention.

Do you buy on Ebay?

Yes, I buy and sell on Ebay and have had very little bad experiences.

What advice do you have for Ebay buyers?

When buying on Ebay, again do your homework and ask questions. Everyone wants to make that steal, but I suggest that you make your maximum bid what you are willing to pay for the item. That way if you do lose it it doesn't feel as bad. Remember on Ebay it's hard to steal anything!

What is your forecast for the future of Coin Op?

The forecast for Coin-Op is still very good...The newer stuff is gaining in popularity – 1940's, 50's and 60's and the younger collectors are out there to make it grow! Of course, I still am partial to the older items but a lot of that is because of my age! No matter what era, the rarer the better...good stuff always brings the bucks!

Have you thought about how or if you will dispose of your collection as you get older?

I've thought about it, but no plans.

What do you like best about collecting coin-op?

I have always been mechanically inclined and like to figure out moving things. So the coin-op collecting and automata too, is right up my alley.

Auctions are a way to find some items but I am bothered by auction commissions...it's getting out of hand!

What do you like best about COCA?

I like COCA because Gloria and I started it and I am immensely proud of the fact that from 3 to 4 members it has grown to 600-700! And the others that have been involved since have done a great job improving COCA. The COCA magazine keeps getting better and better and the convention is another great thing that makes COCA a fun Club to belong to! It takes a lot of work, but thanks to these dedicated members we have come a long way!!

If you would like to share with us your profile, please send an email to durham22@bellatlantic.net or call Ken Durham at 202-338-2471 and we'll mail you the profile questionnaire.



Does anything about the hobby bother you?

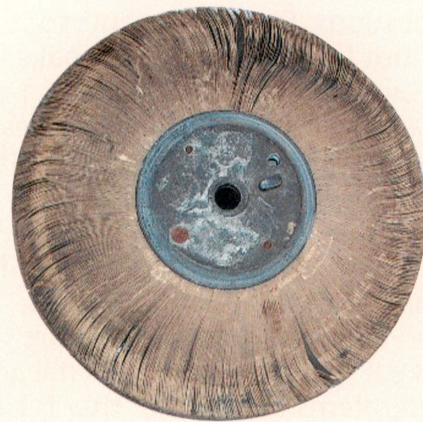


IRA WARREN - COIN-OPS INC.

Email: coinop99@aol.com

DEALER - COLLECTOR - TRADER

\$ WANTED TO BUY \$



MUTOSCOPE CARTOON REELS

FOR SALE



MILLS NOVELTY
L'aeroplan-circa 1910
25 cent
One Wheel Token Pay-Out



NATIONAL
Spirometer-circa 1900
Lung Test and Electricity
(Rubin, page 89)



MIDLAND
Strength and Shocker
circa 1900

IRA WARREN - COIN-OPS INC.

Email: coinop99@aol.com

DEALER - COLLECTOR - TRADER

Some Favorites



PACE
circa 1931
Operated in France



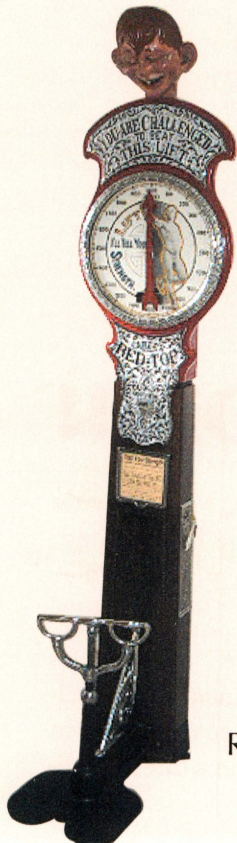
BUSY BEE
1901 Caille Cast Iron



CAILLE
Cast Iron Baseball
Token Pay-Out



1906 MILLS
Early Wizard
with Rare Top Sign



MUTOSCOPE BOXER
OF 1955
(Elusive, last had one
30 years ago)



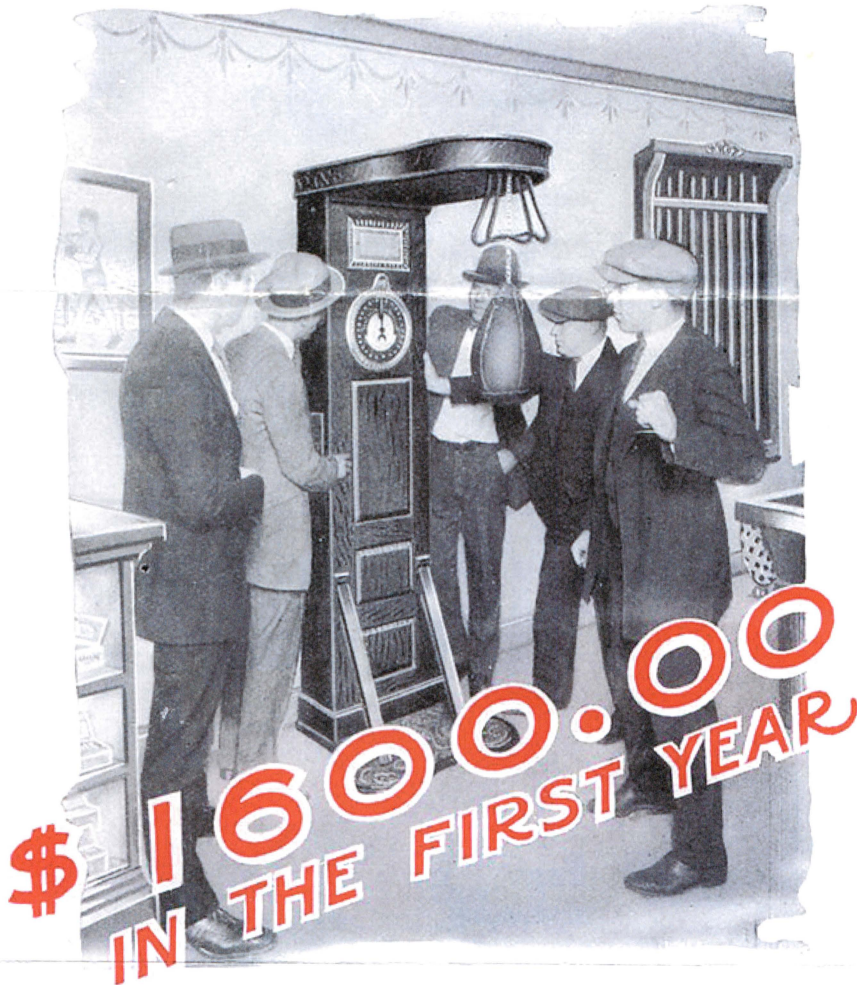
1904 CAILLE
RED TOP Lifter



CAILLE 1904
Ajax Puncher
Restored
(I have 2 of these and can
consider a trade offer)

*On these two pages Marshall Fey shares
some of his vast collection of original literature.*

This Is the Picture That Tells the Story!



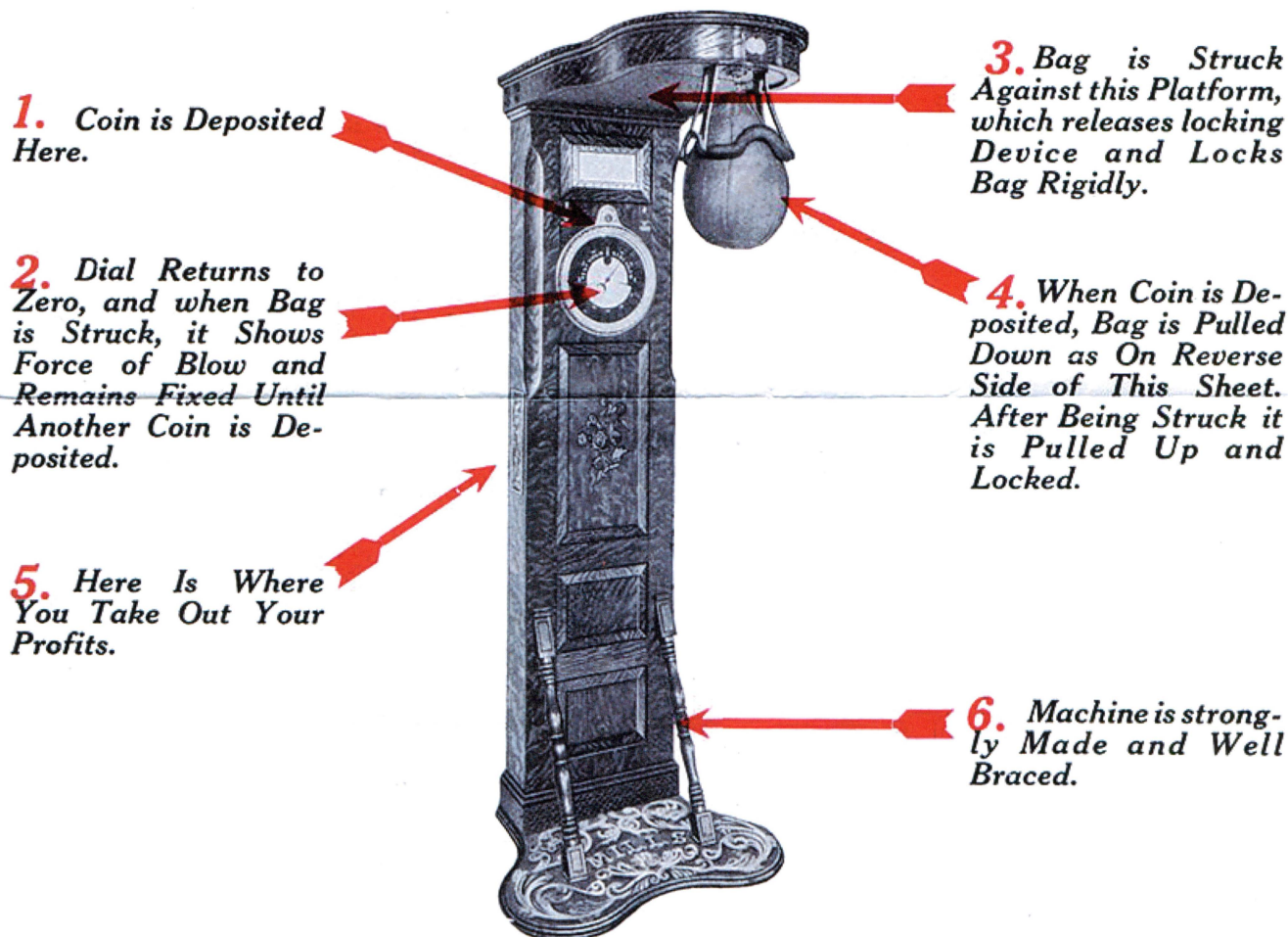
That's What One Man Did!!

Look at this picture! No wonder that Mr. A. Fournier, of Jackman Station, Maine, made \$1600 in one year with his Mills Bag Puncher. Notice the interest this machine has created. If it was played 160,000 times a year in a small town, think what it will do in your town—in your store!

Countless times you have heard such remarks such as "Now watch this one," "Oh, that's easy to beat," "I will do better this time," or, "I will beat yours easy." Men always welcome a chance to show their superiority above others. You have noticed this many times in your business. No doubt you are no different yourself, for human nature is the same wherever you go.

Compare the Investment—

—then Compare the PROFITS!!



How much have you invested in your store — stock, equipment, fixtures, help and rent? How much profit are you making from this investment? Is it 50%, is it 100%?

Do you know that hundreds of Mills Bag Punchers are making from 400% to 500% each year—that hundreds of Bag Punchers are making from \$5 to \$15 a week? Have you any other single item of merchandise in your store which can compare with these profits? You surely can understand from this that the purchase of a Mills Bag Puncher is one of the most profitable investments you can possibly make.

How It Operates: The machine is operated by inserting a coin in the coin slot, which releases the locking device and permits the Bag to be pulled down, and at the same time sends the pointer on the dial back to zero. The Bag is then struck against the platform above, and the force of the blow is registered on the dial. The pointer remains fixed at the maximum force applied and leaves a mark for the next customer to beat. After the blow the Bag is automatically pulled up and locked. Only one blow can be struck for one coin. Made for pennies and nickels.

Specifications: The Bag Puncher is strongly made, and when set up is kept rigid by means of two stronger braces. It is made of handsomely finished Oak, and has an attractive large-faced dial. The Bag is of excellent quality leather, and may be easily inflated. The mechanism is very simple, and requires no attention whatever. The cash box is on the side of the machine, easily accessible when small change is wanted. Machine stands 82 inches high, and shipping weight is 340 pounds.

MILLS NOVELTY COMPANY

4100 Fullerton Avenue

CHICAGO, ILL.

SPARE CHANGE BRINGS BIG BUCKS AT SEMI-ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND SLOT MACHINE AND JUKE BOX SHOW

by Jack Kelly

Visitors and vendors alike reached into their pockets for spare change to test the many coin-operated devices for sale Nov. 10, 11 and 12 at Pheasant Run Resort, 35 miles west of Chicago.

But if they decided to buy one of the machines, it took folding cash--and sometimes lots of it--from as little as \$10 to as much as \$100,000!

The semi-annual Chicagoland Antique Advertising, Slot Machine and Jukebox Show in St. Charles, Ill., drew hundreds of vendors and thousands of visitors from all over the United States and several foreign countries.

The \$100,000 item was a rare, elaborate 1902 Caille "Twin Centaur" nickel-quarter operated 6-foot-tall quartersawn oak and fancy cast iron double slot machine offered by dealer Frank Zygmunt, Westmont, Ill. Other floor machines at the same spot included a Mills 20th Century 25-cent model for \$25,000 (tagged sold) and a nickel operated slot, with built-in music box, made by the Automatic Tool Company for \$26,000.



with hidden payouts, was offered for \$19,950 by Bill Prim of Holly, Mich. The dealer said it was a 6-hour drive from his home north of Detroit, but he termed the show "a good experience," adding, "we've done fairly well, we're pleased."

Still another pay out horse race theme machine, one

that also vends rolls of mints, was brought to the show by Alan Sax of Long Grove, Ill. The countertop fully restored 1935 Superior Confections Vendor, complete with animated racehorses, was priced \$36,000. Sax, known for his selection of Jennings slot machines, offered a choice of two light-up Sun Chief models at \$3,600 each.

Vending machine collectors oohed and ahhed over the early 1900s Coleman Hardware cast iron penny peanut vendor brought to the show by Rich Rohan of Green Bay, Wis. "This one is rare," said the dealer, adding, "\$7,500 will take it home."

Dealer/collector Robert Wendland traveled to St. Charles from Stevensville, Mich., to sell items and promote a business venture. Wendland manufactures replacement parts for coin operated Mutoscope movie and card flip machines that were popular in penny arcades. "I can now supply all the parts for three different models," said Wendland, who also has a collection of the devices. Many people stopped at his booth to admire a 1930s nickel-operated Puritan Girl trade stimulator offered for \$1,750.



"Is it a gun game or a miniature pool table?" questioned one visitor looking at a 2-foot-long miniature walnut pool table with beveled glass top and a target pistol attached to one end. The 1924 oddball device, known as the ABT Company Target Skill, combines both elements and could be taken home for \$2,150. It was displayed by Richard Sandage of Louisville, Ky, who also pointed with pride to a restored 7-foot-tall 1930s Mills Panoram jukebox with "soundies." The restored wood machine featured a flat screen on top that played 16 mm film showing dance routines or other scenes while a 78 rpm record played--all for just 10-cents. Said to be "a tough item to find," it was priced at \$9,500.

Two restored barber chairs, one for an adult and the

other for a child, caught many an eye at the booth of Al and Peg Araiza, Cushing, Okla. A turn of century adult Koken chair, priced \$2,500 was tagged sold, while many shoppers admired a 1930s child-size model with wood carved horse head priced \$550. The couple have been showing at Chicagoland for over 20 years and noted "excellent sales for high end pieces."

Retired NCR cash register employee Dick Witcher and wife Joan traveled to the show from Arnold, Md. The couple showed off—you guessed it, cash registers! The restored showy brass early NCR models included an 1898 model 6, a 1914 model 50 dolphin pattern and a model 39 - Renaissance pattern, priced between \$2,750 and \$6,500. The couple has se up at the show for 15 years.

Jerry and Paulann Turner traveled 750 miles from their home in Hot Springs, Ark., to show a wide selection of vintage advertising items. Many shoppers stopped to admire a 26-inch-tall 1930s composition Facchino Ice Cream display featuring a bug-eyed girl, with red ribbon in her hair, holding onto a life-size ice cream cone. It could be taken home for \$2,395. At the same spot was a working 13-inch long Dr. Pepper Soda Pop radio. It could play at your place for \$2,250.



"That looks like fun," said one shopper, pointing to a 3-by 4-foot 1951 Genco Motorama dome top arcade machine that allowed the player to maneuver a model car through an obstacle course. The illustrated course taking the driver "from New York to L.A." could be played for 10 cents—and be taken home for \$9,500. The vintage device was brought to Chicagoland by Doug Wilderman of Carol Stream, Ill.

Collector Chad Boekelheide said "It was a long drive from Northville, S.D., but it was worth it." Among the items he packed for the trip back home were a 1907 Mills Check Boy Trade Stimulator, a 1928 Baker Boy gum vendor, a 1930s Pulver Cop and Robber gum machine and a 1926 Blue Bird gambling gumball machine. Calling himself a "serious, aggressive buyer of higher end coin-op machines," Boekelheide said the Chicagoland show "is a fantastic spot for both buying and selling."

Shoppers and vendors alike stopped to gawk at five men, all wearing shocking pink ski hats who were roaming through the show. The group, overseas buyers from Holland, said the hats were a last-minute idea



of juke boxes and accessories but also hauled away Coke machines, vending machines and "lots of other great stuff."

Two book authors, and fellow collectors, were present at the November show. Comparing notes were Ken Rubin of Brooklyn, NY and Bill Howard of Akron, Ohio. Rubin wrote one of the first hard cover books on coin-op collecting, the excellent "Drop Coin Here" in 1979, priced at \$12.95. The author chuckled and said "it's been sold on eBay recently for as high as \$150." Howard said his 184-page hard cover book, "Every Picture Tells a Story," is a compilation of photos and facts covering



decided while shopping in the city. They brainstormed that they could easily spot each other while roaming the aisles at the crowded show and group spokesman Rene' Lengemann said, "It worked!" The buyer said they concentrated on purchases

his personal collection and was priced at \$75.

Collectors needing reproduction decals and labels for coin-op machines noticed a new face in the booth of "The Gumball King" nor-

mally hosted by Barbara Larks Tucker. The longtime dealer said she sold the business and inventory to Scott Tidball of Franklinton, N.C. The business deal included the transfer of about "80,000 decals."

The twice-yearly show drew large crowds for all three days with what promoters termed "exceptionally large numbers" on Saturday. Early buyers forked over \$50 to enter on Friday, with general admission at \$7 Saturday and Sunday.

The spring show will be held March 30, 31 and April 1 at Pheasant Run Resort.

Dealers can get information from co-promoter Bob Traynoff at 1-847-244-9263. Show information is available from co-promoter Kevin Greco at 1-815-353-1593, or www.chicagolandshow.com.

WATLING SUPREME PLAIN WEIGHER #12

(circa 1920)

by Jim and Merlyn Collings

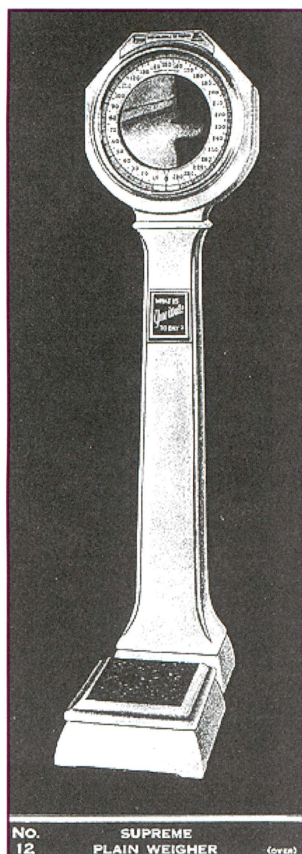


Photo 1

This Watling White Porcelain Scale is a fairly scarce scale having a simplistic design. Some of these scales had a 9-inch mirror attached to the inside of the glass (photo 1). These mirrors were fashionable during the Roaring 20's. If the mirror is scraped off of the glass the following patent dates will be seen on the porcelainated face.

U.S. Patents Dec. 5, 1916, Feb. 17, 1917, Oct. 7, 1917, Oct. 16, 1917. Other Patent Pending also previously hidden by the mirror are the words: The Watling Scale Co., Chicago, ILL Patented in Great Britain, Germany, France and Canada, Made in U.S.A. Dial Patented Oct. 6, 1920 (photo 2).

The scale is 72" high and the head is 16" wide. The bezel on the scale head is German silver (similar to stainless steel), whereas, the interior bezel is made

of brass. The head of this scale is 5-sided and rounded at the bottom making it look octagonish. On the hammered German silver sign above the dial it reads from left to right: Drop Penny - Watling Scale Co., Chicago, ILL. - Drop Coin Here (photo 2 again).

The Supreme Plain Weigher scale has a column which is slightly tapered as shown in (photo 3). Notice in photo 3 how well

the Watling Scale goes with the first Jacobs Lite-Up Pepsi Machine from 1948. This shows how two pieces of Ameriland deserve each other. The tapered flat sided column is a good example of the art deco era.



Photo 4

Attached to the white porcelain column of the scale is a 5"x7" porcelain sign. Embossed on the black and white sign it says: What is Yur Wate Today? (photo 4). Notice that Yur Wate is purposely misspelled to attract attention. The sign is framed nicely with German silver. The sign is why this scale is also known as the Yur Wate scale.

Another outstanding feature of this scale is the footplate. The footplate seems to be made out of granite with a marbled black and tan design. We feel this footplate or platform is one of the nicest we have ever seen (photo 5).



Photo 5

The Watling Supreme Plain Weigher #12, also known as the Yur Wate scale is simplistic but has unique features that make it a wonderful period piece.

HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING!



Photo 3

See next page for some Scale Trivia!

HERE IS SOME SCALE TRIVIA WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY:

1. The first coin-operated scale came from Europe (Deutsch-Wright Patent Co.) and was used in Chicago railroad stations in 1885.
 2. In 1886 Blodenfield and Blondenfield made the first American coin-op scale.
 3. \$2.50 gold pieces were sometimes accidentally put in the coin slot because they were the size of a penny.
 4. Merchants would put paper money in the scales and use it as a fire-proof safe.
 5. Certain scales that gave medical advice were illegal. They gave a fairly accurate heartbeat that was measured with the vibrations from our feet.
 6. Reportedly Arnold Schwarzenegger owns a 3-hole gambler scale which was used in his office.
 7. Scale marquees were stolen by marquee collectors and put on their wall.
 8. The last Lollipop scale was made in 1933, because the waist high scales were smaller and less expensive to make.
 9. 65% of all coin scales were destroyed in the 40's due to the war and the scrap metal value!
 10. It's estimated there are a 139 different scale designs - not counting variations.
-



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Coin-Op Collecting in Europe

by Sam Mazzeo

“You want me to transfer overseas?”

In February 1991 my boss wanted me to move to our International Division, with a possible overseas assignment in about two or three years, with the assignment to last two or three years, maybe more. Conflicting images of European culture and history clashed with thoughts of potentially risky locations in South America or Asia. Oh well, we had two years to think about it, and it might not happen at all. Besides, we had just built a new house and I was getting ready to finish my basement so that my coin-ops would have a happier (and larger) home. I finally had room for buying some new slot machines. The next year my boss told me they wanted me in Brussels, Belgium IN FOUR MONTHS! I replied “I thought you said two years?” My questions were greeted with, “That’s life,” and “This is an opportunity.” So my wife completed a 26 page inventory of our belongings, we sold our new house and I put most of my machines in storage. Off to Belgium, and our new house. Most houses in Belgium, and throughout Europe, are smaller than those in the U.S. because of the denser population per square mile, and real estate is quite a bit more expensive. I had to leave most of my slots in the U.S. as I didn’t have much room to display them. Also, we were told that slot machines weren’t legal in Belgium, so I wasn’t keen on the thought of confiscation. But I decided to be philosophical about it: “I’ll just move in and start collecting coin-ops over here. How hard can it be?”

Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! It isn’t easy to find the local flea markets and auctions if you don’t speak the language. Then, even if you find something, like a pinball or a jukebox, it runs on 220 volts and 50 cycles vs. the American 110 volts and 60 cycles. You might be able to convert the voltage, but you can’t convert the cycles. Then came the financial shock. I went shopping at the local upscale antique district in downtown Brussels called Sablon. I didn’t find that many coin-ops, especially not U.S., until I stumbled over one.

Naturally I asked, “How much is that 25¢ Groetchen COLUMBIA slot machine?” A quick conversion from Belgian francs to dollars told me he was asking \$1,500. I politely declined the purchase. Another nearby shop had a late 1940s Rock-Ola Model 1426 or 1428 jukebox at a cool \$12,000, a Jennings LITTLE DUKE for \$4,000 and a late Bally electromechanical at \$1,400. I was shell shocked.

Then one of the shopkeepers referred me to a place that specialized in slots. The prices were better, but still steep. Mills BLACK CHERRY, \$3,500; a Jennings STAR CHIEF from the Riviera at \$3,500; a Pace 1936 COMET for \$3,800 and \$1,800 for a Bally. Oh how I longed to be back at the Chicagoland show. I later found out that these were the asking prices, and after dickering they only bring about 2/3rds of that, but that was still quite hefty. A lot of the high pricing has to do with the exchange rate as the American dollar was quite weak.

I also met a lot of European collectors. I was given their names by Dick Bueschel, and followed up. They included Gert Almind, the jukebox collector and historian from Denmark; Birgit Friederike Haberbosch, representing the Gauselmann Spielgerate coin machine museum; Peter Grilli in England; and Mr. Jean-Pierre Cuvier, the outstanding French pinball collector and historian. We also got to go to a lot of the European coin-op shows, including the massive Rosmalen Show in the Netherlands on November 7-8, 1992. Gert Almind told me that this is the largest show in the world, and I can believe it. It was estimated that 40,000 people attended it over the weekend. The focus of the show was coin-ops and 1950s memorabilia, with a strong emphasis on jukeboxes.

I also attended a show in Hasselt, Belgium, on Saturday, May 15, 1993, about 80 km (50 miles) east of my home in Brussels. Called the International Jukebox and Collector’s Show, it wasn’t nearly as large as Rosmalen, but it was still interesting.

Slot machine collecting in Europe is just about as confusing as it is from state to state in the United States. Many European countries have a addiction problem as gambling is so widespread. The Dutch have banned an excessive number of machines to help control the problem. Although slots were supposed to be illegal in Belgium, I found a number in antique shops so it can’t be that big of a deal. Germany has collectible laws that al-

low machines under certain restrictions. They are probably illegal in Denmark. Gert Almind told me “There are not exact laws in the field, but of course it is not legal to let them be used by the public. In Sweden, our ‘brother country’, it is strictly illegal.”

As for machine gambling in Europe, it is fairly common. Machines are legally operated in Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the U.K. They are also legal in limited areas of casinos in countries such as Belgium, France and Monaco. We saw many machines in Spanish cities on a trip there. There was one especially interesting bar in Barcelona called La Fira (The Fair) that

had quite a few antique machines spread around the interior, constituting the main theme and centerpiece of the establishment. No photos were allowed, so I can’t show you what they looked like. But they included a Mills “Hightop,” Jennings 1950s SUN CHIEF, some other slots, a few trade stimulators, a few old pinballs and numerous automatons similar to the “Granny” fortune teller type. Most were unrestored, for show only, with a sign saying they were displayed by a local collector. If you’re making the trip, don’t miss it.

Marilyn Monroe display (with an air system blowing her skirt up) at Rosmalen, exhibited by the Juke Joint Company of Belgium.



Revolving bucking bronco display, surrounded by jukeboxes, at the Rosmalen Show in the Netherlands.





Look at this great stuff
at the Rosmalen Show.
A corner full of to-die-for
Wurlitzers and Rock-Ola
Jukeboxes, Pinballs, Slots
and Much More.



Overall view of the Rosmalen Show in the Autotron Museum Hall.
Several antique Air Force airplanes are hung from the ceiling as part of
the permanent display, such as this WWII vintage British Avro Anson.



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C.O.C.A. Local Gatherings

Cleveland, Ohio • Raleigh, North Carolina • Washington DC

C.O.C.A. members and friends got together in Cleveland, Ohio; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Washington DC for our first local C.O.C.A. gatherings. On September 17th, we met at the home of **Bill and Loretta Lippay** near Cleveland. A backyard full of people from 3 states enjoyed a sunny afternoon together. Bill showed us his great collection of slot machines, trade stimulators, and music boxes. For someone who has only been collecting a few years, he certainly has an extensive display. We even got a peek into the workshop and back room filled with future projects that await Bill's skilled hands. With a long background in auto restoration he can make a machine look like it just left the factory. If you go to the Chicago show make sure to stop by his booth and look at his work.

Ohio has a great group of members that like to have fun and talk coin-op. We had plenty to eat and drink, thanks to Loretta, and many stayed quite late enjoying the hospitality. Members were encouraged to bring machines for sale or just for show and tell. A nice Dandy Vendor and a Jennings Target changed hands along with a DeLong Slot/Gangster carving. There were several other machines for sale including two trade stimulators that none of us had ever seen before.

On October 7th we journeyed to Raleigh to the new log home of **Chuck and Betty Friedman**. More than 14 months in construction it was a very impressive sight. The home sits high on a hill with a large lake in the backyard. We were joined by many C.O.C.A. members and friends along with about 30 or more of Chuck's neighbors, friends and family. Chuck fixed up some of the best barbecue I have ever tasted. We were all asked to bring a side dish so there was quite a nice layout of desserts as well. Machines for sale included a Jennings Dutch Boy, Jennings Club Special, and about a half dozen trade stimulators and table games.

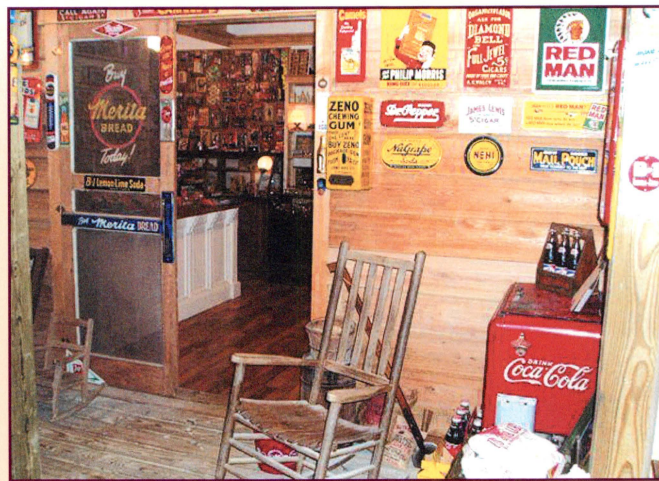
Chuck has filled the entire lower level with some great stuff. The walls must be at least 12 feet tall and are adorned with antique advertising of all types. One wall is lined with slot machines and there are large displays of trade stimulators on shelves. A miniature pool table sits in the middle flanked by a complete original soda fountain and antique back bar. One entire room has been converted into a country store complete with front porch, screen doors and glass showcases. Every

thing that you would expect to find in a country store is there. Another side room has two old crane games and looks to be a future penny arcade. Chuck does all of his own restoration and is great at it. He is also on the lookout for a Jennings \$1 light up slot if you know of one for sale.

In December, eight members met at the townhouse of **Ken and Jackie Durham** located ten blocks from the White House. Everyone was able to meet the challenge of finding a parking spot in the middle of the city. The afternoon was spent exchanging coin-op stories and contacts. Even those who thought they knew everyone in the area met collectors they didn't know. There were several machines for sale, lots of food and drinks, Christmas decorations and even more conversation.

Coin machines are placed in every room of the house, even the kitchen which featured appropriately the Baker Boy gum vendor. The living room had several versions of the Wizard gambling clocks that look like mantel clocks instead of gambling machines. Even the bathroom featured a Masters Condom machine, Jergens Lotion dispenser and Bulls Head perfume dispenser. The basement had wall to wall displays of counter machines. The most popular items included Jackie's collection of coin operated Regina music boxes which she played for all.

Sincere thanks go out to The Lippay's, The Friedman's and The Durham's for hosting the first of what we hope will be many more local C.O.C.A. gatherings. We are looking for members to serve on the local gathering committee or to host a gathering. C.O.C.A. will promote the event via the website, and magazine. These events are designed to be a social opportunity for members and guests to share some time together. It is up to the host of each event to determine how many people he can accommodate. Members from all over the country are invited to attend. When calling the host to make a reservation you should ask the host what you can bring to the party. Once a host has maxed out his capacity no more reservations will be accepted. If you would like to see C.O.C.A. grow in your area please help out by contacting Bill Petrochuk (Bill@mebtel.net) or Ken Durham (durham22@bellatlantic.net) and volunteer for this committee or to host a gathering.



Local Gatherings Scheduled for 2007

View full details as they
become available on the
C.O.C.A. website:
www.coinopclub.org.

- Craig Bierman, Houston, Texas (713) 995-8009, Early Spring
- Tom Gustwiller, Ottawa, Ohio (419) 523-6395, Spring
- Mark & Marcy Ernster, Cedarburg, Wisconsin (262) 675-0497, Saturday, September 29
- Sandy Lechtick, Woodland Hills, California (818) 712-9700, Date to be announced
- Rich Wolfen, Carlstadt, New Jersey (800) 624-8746, Date to be announced
- Al Demetruk, Youngstown, Ohio (330) 792-5658, Sunday, September 9
- Bill Petrochuk, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (919) 304-4455, Saturday, September 15

SELECTED AUCTION RESULTS

by Doug Cain

Auction Results from the Victorian Casino Antique Auction held in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 14th and 15th, 2006. Although Internet bidding was an option for potential buyers, most lots were sold to auction attendees, and all items listed below were purchased by floor bidders. Prices listed are the closing bids and do not include the 10% buyer's premium.

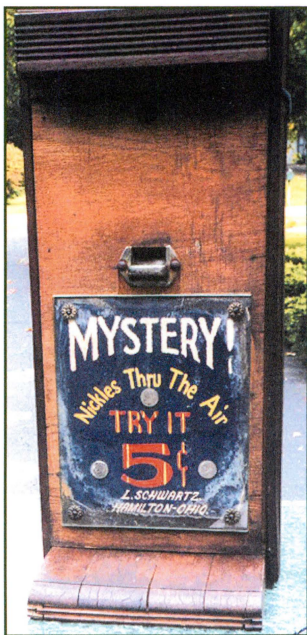
Groetchen Tavern Trade Stimulator.....	\$500.	Advance Shocker Counter Game.....	\$400.
Jennings Slot Machine w/Golf Ball Front 10¢.....	\$7,000.	Caille George Washington Oak Scale.....	\$5,000.
Rock-Ola Model 1422 Juke Box.....	\$2,250.	Bennett Cigar Vender.....	\$3,000.
Advance Glass Domed Match Vendor.....	\$1,100.	Table Model Iron Claw Machine.....	\$1,500.
National Sweet Chocolate Vending Machine.....	\$1,050.	Mills 20th Century Upright Slot Macine 25¢.....	\$20,000.
K.O. Fighters Arcade Machine.....	\$7,250.	Original Coin-Op Encore Banjo Machine.....	\$40,000.
Hoke Baseball Slot Machine 1¢.....	\$16,000.	Lincoln Hot Nut Vending Machine.....	\$1,800.
Steven's Magic Clock Trade Stimulator.....	\$350.	Jennings Black Cat Slot Machine 5¢.....	\$17,000.
Jennings 4-Star Chief Slot Machine 25¢.....	\$3,700.	Chicago Club House Stimulator.....	\$900.
Mills Bursting Cherry Slot w/Side Vendor 10¢.....	\$2,100.	Mills Musical Dewey Upright Slot Machine 25¢.....	\$30,000.

Auction results from the James D. Julia auction held in Fairfield, Maine on November 11th, 2006. There was no internet bidding. Prices listed include the hammer price plus a 15% buyer's premium.

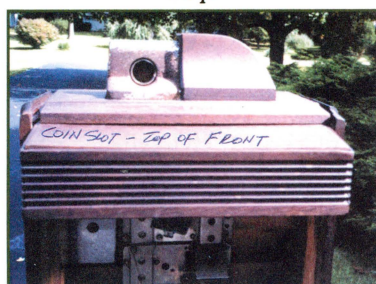
Caille Quintette Trade Stimulator.....	\$29,900.	German Windmill Candy Vendor.....	\$12,075.
Caille Wasp Trade Stimulator.....	\$14,950.	Mills Puritan Bell & Master Penny/Nickel Peanut Vendor (lot).....	\$1,150.

Mills Whattheheckisit?

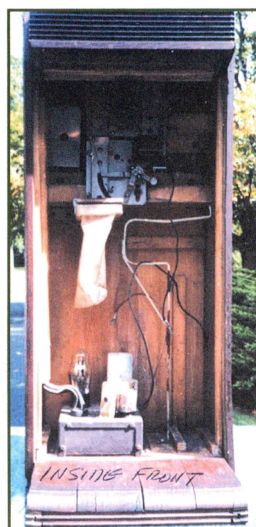
Member Robert Chaney of Indianapolis recently purchased this Mills counter device. It takes nickels, and is 28", tall 11" wide. The inside WARNING sheet dates it to 1927. It was battery operated and had a "transmitter tuning condenser." He would like some help as to what this machine was and how to get it working again. Email answers to: Echaney512@aol.com



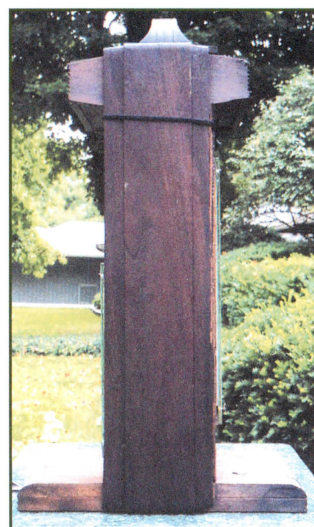
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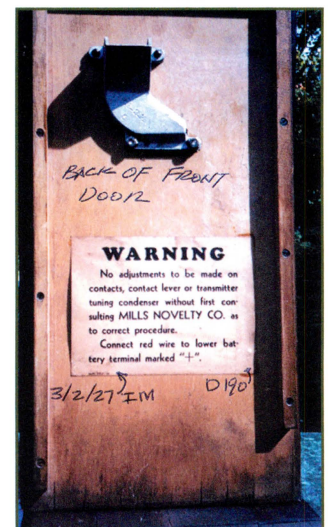
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 Contact: Paul Hindin, (414) 559-9681 or
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 Contact: Erwin Minder, Burgdorf, Switzerland.
 Fax: 0041-34-423-2406. Email: rockola57@bluemail.ch

WANTED: I need a repro marquee made for my Caille Mascot Lung/Strength Tester.
 Call: Jimmy Rosen, (717) 834-9333.

WANTED: Serious collector paying top \$\$\$ for gum and peanut machines and trade stimulators. Especially early, unique, and rare machines. One piece or entire collection. Strong interest in small breath pellet machines and early Pulver's. Also buying parts.
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WANTED: Pulver tall cases, short cases, green. Any other items related to Pulver. Also L-shaped chocolate and other gum machines.
 Contact: Ron Pulver, W3524 Raddatz Rd., Cambria, WI 53923; Phone (920) 348-5841 or (608) 225-9702.

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WANTED: I need three coin entry/badge units for the Jennings Victoria (also fits Jennings Century.) Need 1¢, 10¢ and 50¢. Need two cash boxes (original only) for Jennings Victoria. I have 2 original cash boxes for Jennings Dutch boy type and 1 original cash box for Jennings Chief to trade.
 Contact: Ken Haynes, (912) 598-2255.

WANTED: KICKER AND CATCHERS. Whole or parts. Also other counter games.
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